

Charles Martin "Marty" Delano, 85



Charles Martin "Marty" Delano died peacefully in his sleep on Feb. 6 2017. He was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Nora Delano, and his son, Thomas Delano. He leaves behind a beloved sister and brother, nieces and nephews and a grandson.

Born Nov. 4 1931 to Philip and Henrietta Delano on his family's dairy farm in Duxbury, Marty spent the majority of his youth working with dairy stock. He had a connection to the land and to Duxbury that was a dozen generations old. From the early years on the farm, Marty's main passions were forged: agriculture, service and construction.

Marty believed that agriculture provided lessons that were all-too-often lost on a modern world. Raising stock demanded dedication, the lack of it makes for sick calves. He said a farmer is the best conservationist, as his livelihood depends on proper stewardship, and a child who grew a chicken from a chick, only to place the result upon the family table, was more prepared for life's rigors than many adults.

These old Yankee values are what Marty brought to the Duxbury Conservation Commission and to the Board of Selectman from 1980-1988. He believed Duxbury was a unique and special place and he spent countless hours working to ensure it stayed that way. Among his achievements as selectman were the modernization of the Duxbury Police Department and the hiring of former Chief Cappucci. Marty's leadership was instrumental in rebuilding the bridge to Duxbury Beach. Marty was also a fixture at the Marshfield Fair (an event he only missed six times in 85 years), where he worked as a volunteer and then director.

Throughout his life, in one capacity or another, Marty worked in the construction industry. As a young man he labored on various sites throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut, building bridges, commercial buildings and industrial facilities during the post-war boom. He reveled in the process, and no aspect of construction escaped his curiosity. In 1980 he began work with Lee Kennedy Company of Boston and participated in the renovation of Copley Place, the rebuilding of the Haymarket neighborhood and Boston's waterfront, the construction of the Zakum Bridge and Harvard's Widener Library, among other noteworthy projects. He was very proud of this career and the work the company did.

Despite a life of hard work, Marty was no stranger to a good time. His early adulthood saw too many parties to count. He was known for riding his horse Champ out to Brant Rock for cocktails because, he would say, "no matter how many drinks I had, Champ knew the way back to the farm." After a graduation ceremony at Duxbury High School, Marty and some of his cohorts borrowed, without notice or permission, Duxbury's newest fire truck. They managed to get it as far as the beach before it bogged down in the sand and became stuck. The use of farm tractors were required to free the truck so that it could be returned before anyone noticed. At some point, Marty left hell-raising behind for less risky thrills. He loved dancing, live music and dining out. Weekends always included attending a square dance or a performance by local musicians. Long road trips with his wife, Nora, were common occurrences. They both loved to travel and did so often by camper or RV.

No matter what Marty was doing, he did it with passion, humor, style and graciousness. Every life he touched saw these virtues in him. We love you, Marty, and we are all better off for having you in our lives.